



# Church of the Holy Spirit

## You are welcome here!

MARCH 7, 2021

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT



### REOPENING INFORMATION

Here's what you need to know before you join us for Mass:

- You will need to bring your own mask and sanitizer.
- Gathering before and after Mass is discouraged.
- Seating in the church has been modified to maintain social distancing.
- Ushers will ask for your name upon arrival. This is to assist in contact tracing if a case of COVID 19 is detected in a parishioner. All attendance records will be sealed and destroyed after 30 days if no case emerges.
- The communion process will take a bit more time. Follow the ushers' cues and be patient.

Thank you for your cooperation and patience as we work to keep everyone healthy and safe! Please feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns that you might have. We look forward to seeing you again!

**Contact us:**  
667 Columbia Turnpike  
East Greenbush, NY 12061  
518-477-7925  
<http://hsceg.org>

**Due to physical distancing during the COVID 19 pandemic,** the parish office is closed. Please contact us by leaving a message or by email



Dear friends in Christ!

May the grace and peace of Jesus be with you always! May the grace and peace of Jesus be with you always! I pray that you had a good week. Lent is at the midpoint, and the next three weekends are the Scrunity weekends for the R.C.I.A candidates who will be received or baptized into the Catholic Church. The Scrunity process consists of rites which are celebrated to help deliver the elect from the power of sin and Satan, to protect them against temptation, and to give them strength in Christ, who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life (RCIA 141). The Rites of Scrunity are meant to uncover, and then heal, all that is weak, defective, or sinful in the elects' hearts and to bring out through repentance all that is upright, strong, and good. Even though we do not have any RCIA candidate in our parish, we can still pray for those RCIA candidates around the world whom will be received into the Catholic Church on Easter Vigil.

This weekend we will hear the story of the cleansing of the temple. After seeing what people had done to the temple (i.e. exchanging of the money, selling of animal for sacrificial purposes), Jesus made a whip out of cords and drove them all out of the temple area (*John 2:15*). He cleansed the temple, the Father's House, because he did not want anything that would defile the temple. The story of cleansing the temple reminds us of our own spiritual temple. St. Paul says that our body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. At times, we neglect to take care of our own temple and allow sins such as pride, gossiping, negative attitude toward our neighbors, lying or stealing to destroy our temple. Jesus wants to help us with cleansing our own temple, and he wants His gift of the Holy Spirit to dwell in it. If the temple is filthy, how can the Holy Spirit dwell in it? Lent is an opportunity for cleansing and renewal. Today we can ask God to help us to clean out and get rid of the filthy things that do not belong in the temple by going to confession. May you have a blessed week!

Peace & Blessings

*Fr. Greg V.*



**Saturday: 4:00 p.m. — Indoor Mass**  
**Sunday: 8:30 a.m. — Indoor Mass**  
**Sunday: 11:00 a.m. — Indoor Mass**

**Live stream Mass Schedule:**  
Saturday 4 p.m.  
Links can be found on  
Youtube channel  
Holy Spirit Church eg

**Our Seasons of Faith website:**  
[holyspiritchurcheg.weebly.com](http://holyspiritchurcheg.weebly.com)  
**Follow us on:**  
Twitter: @HolySpiritEG  
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# REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- † In God's revelation to Moses of His "10 Commandments," seven of the ten Commandments regulate how we are to relate to each other. Which of these seven Commandments challenges you most?
- † Paul speaks of Jesus as both the "power of God and the wisdom of God." How could you prove Paul's assertion to a non-believer?
- † John connects Jesus' cleansing of the Temple in Jerusalem to Jesus' bodily resurrection from the dead with a quote from Psalm 69: "Zeal for your house will consume me." During this season of Lent, how passionate is your faith?



## This Sunday's Reading:

**First Reading:** Exodus 20:1-17  
**Second Reading:** 1 Corinthians 1:22-25  
**Gospel:** John 2:13-25

## Next Sunday's Reading:

**First Reading:** 1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a  
**Second Reading:** Ephesians 5:8-14  
**Gospel:** John 9:1-41

## HOLY SPIRIT PARISH SACRIFICIAL OFFERING



### Week of 2/28/21:

- \* Collection weekend masses: **\$1,569.00**
  - \* Collection thru mail: **\$2,088.00**
  - \* Collection thru E-Giving: **\$675.00**
- Total Collection: \$4,332.00**



Please consider online giving. Our parish is grateful for your continued support. If you are away, please remember the parish with your envelope gift on your return. Also, you can make your gift/donations by using the E-Giving on our parish website.



## POPE FRANCIS PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR MARCH 2021

**Violence Against Women:** We pray for women who are victims of violence, that they may be protected by society and have their sufferings considered and heeded.



**Stations of the Cross**— Join us in praying the Stations of the Cross every Friday afternoon throughout the Lenten Season. The prayer service begins at 12:15 p.m.

- † **Walking With the Spirit:** Fasting for Lent from the 7 deadly sins (3/14 or 3/15 @ 6:30pm)
- † **Simply Scripture:** 2nd and 5th Sundays of Lent (3/20 @ 2:30pm)
- † **Words of Wisdom Book Group.** Join us as we gather virtually to discuss Chapter 2 of Fratelli Tutti – A Stranger on the Road. Pope Francis uses the parable of the Good Samaritan to break open how this parable relates to our world today, the challenges we face and how we are to live our lives like the Good Samaritan. Join us on Wednesday, March 10th at 6:30pm. Contact Laura Countryman at the parish office or at [faithformation@hsceg.org](mailto:faithformation@hsceg.org) to register.
- † **Fasting for Lent from the 7 deadly sins.** Join us as we explore the 7 deadly sins and how we can fast from them. We will gather virtually on either Sunday, 3/14 or Monday 3/15 at 6:30pm. Contact Laura Countryman at the Parish Office or at [faithformation@hsceg.org](mailto:faithformation@hsceg.org) to register.

**SOCIAL ACTION MINISTRY:** On behalf of Holy Spirit church's Social Action Ministry, I am writing with a very big thank you for all you did to help make this past weekend's book drive a success. Our parish and school as well as Sacred Heart parish and St Mary's parish all generously donated to the book drive this weekend. We were able to donate more than 2,200 books! Thank you for your critical support.

The Social Action Ministry will be holding our annual drive for personal care items on **March 20th from 10:00-12:00** in the church parking lot. The collection will benefit our friends at Joseph's House, Emmaus House, Circles of Mercy, and Concerns U. Monetary donations are also kindly accepted. We will be collecting items such as: Shampoo, Body soap/wash, Razors, Feminine products, Deodorant, Toothpaste, Toothbrushes, Hand sanitizer, Diapers -size 5 or 6, and Travel sized toiletries



Our parish, along with Holy Spirit School are once again collecting items for our annual Easter basket project. The need is great this year and we already have requests for over 125 items. We are in need of are: chocolate bunnies, individually wrapped candy, small toys/ gifts, and small stuffed animals

There will be a collection box in the back of the church for items to be dropped off. Also, we will be collecting items on Saturday March 20 from 10-12 am in the church parking lot in conjunction with the Social Concerns collection of personal care items.

If you would like to donate and are unable to drop your items off, please contact Ellen Murphy at 518-479-7217 to arrange pickup.



**WHY DO WE DO THAT?  
CATHOLIC TRADITIONS EXPLAINED**

**Question: After attending our parish retreat and feeling much better and stronger about my faith, I want to make this Lent worthwhile. What can I do to keep the spirit and practice of Lent?**

*Answer:* You've already taken the first step by going on the parish retreat. It is important for us to "tune up" our faith, taking some time to renew ourselves through prayer, meditation and education. By deepening our knowledge and understanding of faith, we are often better attuned to its richness and meaning for our life.

Lent is an intense retreat, a forty-day period of reflection and penance that prepares us to celebrate the passion, death and resurrection of Christ. Our communication with God and our awareness of him is the purpose of prayer. Setting aside extra time each day helps intensify the season. Prayer includes daily Mass, Stations of the Cross, communal penance services and private confession. Making restitution for sin as well as disciplining our hearts and minds to focus on God is the purpose of penance. It helps us restore a sense of balance to our souls, thrown off kilter by sin. Penance includes personal sacrifice, self-denial, fasting, almsgiving and charitable works.

Finally, spiritual practices help us sharpen our understanding and insight into the meaning and understanding of our faith. When you take your faith seriously, you do what is necessary to follow Jesus more closely, to integrate your life and your faith more carefully.

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**LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK**

With our world in such constant turmoil and conflict, it makes such good sense to return to the simple directives given in the Ten Commandments. God's unassuming guidelines provide the perfect recipe for ordering our relationships with God, others, and even ourselves. But yet, we are so quick to glance beyond them and even remove them from public view because we foolishly believe we can create something better. Arrogance runs far deeper in the members of our society than we can ever imagine. Lent is a perfect time to call ourselves back to our foundations and the basic relationships that comprise our lives. It is also a time to remember that Jesus is the true sign of God's presence. Everything he says and does, including his suffering and death, is a sign of the God who sent him. The anger we witness when Jesus exhorts those in the temple to stop making his Father's house a marketplace can equally be seen in his anger and frustration over humanity's constant mission to turn God's creation into a secular world. We have a lot of work to do for sure.



Fr. Vo is available to hear confession to those who wish to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Please call the Parish Office at (518) 477-7925 to make an appointment with Fr. Vo or email [pastor@hsceg.org](mailto:pastor@hsceg.org).

**GOSPEL MEDITATION**

**The Third Sunday Lent**

Many prefer a "create as you go" approach to life where laws and protocols primarily exist to secure and protect liberties rather than dictate and outline proper and right behavior. There are no real benchmarks for acceptable ethical and moral behavior, with a "you can't tell me what to do" attitude prevailing. Parents are even limited in what they can request of their children, and dealing with threatening behaviors, especially from adults, are a challenge as well. Acceptable and expected conduct seems to amount to safeguarding each other's space rather than increasing awareness of necessary relationships that require a more refined and higher response.

We have lost our axis to the world of "anything goes" and no longer see the Ten Commandments as practical and wise guideposts to effective living. We live on "relativism island" where only a possible suggestion to "love and do not harm" may be the only standard able to be preached. While Jesus most certainly emphasized love above anything else, it was never about warm fuzzy feelings or halfhearted humanitarian efforts. The love of which Jesus spoke establishes an intimate connection with God, neighbor, self, and creation. Because this love, who is God Himself, is at the foundational core of our lives, it demands actions and attitudes that serve to build up, increase, and free up those relationships. Love requires proper conduct. Preserving and enhancing these love centered relationships is at the heart of the Ten Commandments (and the Beatitudes) and the reason for Jesus' display of anger in the temple.

The Ten Commandments can save the world from turmoil and conflict by instilling basic moral and relational principles within us. They also hold a healthy sense of sin in balance and always remind us of our relationship with God and the freedom God offers. Our faith preserves these jewels of truth that we often look beyond, dismiss altogether, or seek to remove from public view. Human beings can be so arrogant at times. Our Lenten journey, especially when embarked upon with sincerity and resolve, can restore all of our essential relationships. When we get absorbed in life's preoccupations and demands, things can quickly get distorted and we can find ourselves way off track. In short, we find ourselves in sin. Humanity is losing a sense of both grace and sin. We need both to understand what is real and true. Until we do, the oppressive systems and ideologies that hurt so many will never change. We will never change. We are grateful for those courageous souls who willingly embrace the conversion and hard work Lent demands and stand against antiquated systems and ideologies. They give us hope that all is not lost.



This weekend is the Day-light Saving Time. Remember to set you clock one hour ahead before going to bed. Think Spring weather!

## Holy Spirit Directory

Parish: 518-477-7925 [office@hsceg.org](mailto:office@hsceg.org)

School: 518-477-5739 [hsoffice@hsceg.org](mailto:hsoffice@hsceg.org)

### Parish Pastoral Team

**Pastor:** Fr. Quy Vo [pastor@hsceg.org](mailto:pastor@hsceg.org)

**Deacon:** Bill Dringus [deacon1275@aol.com](mailto:deacon1275@aol.com)

### **Pastoral Associate for Administration:**

Antonio Morabito [parishmanager@hsceg.org](mailto:parishmanager@hsceg.org)

### **Pastoral Associate for Liturgy:**

\* Fr. Quy Vo [pastor@hsceg.org](mailto:pastor@hsceg.org)

### **Family Ministry & Lifelong Faith Formation:**

\* Laura Countryman [faithformation@hsceg.org](mailto:faithformation@hsceg.org)

**Bookkeeper:** Aimee Martin-Vieira [finance@hsceg.org](mailto:finance@hsceg.org)

**Secretary:** [office@hsceg.org](mailto:office@hsceg.org)

**Maintenance Services:** Paul Weidman, Tim Casalla

**Holy Spirit School** - 54 Highland Drive

**Principal:** Michael Kosar [principal@hsceg.com](mailto:principal@hsceg.com)

### **Pastoral Council**

Ellen Murphy: 518-479-7217 [ebmurphy@gmail.com](mailto:ebmurphy@gmail.com)

### **Finance Committee**

Steve Wiech: 518-477-5351 [steve\\_wiech@msn.com](mailto:steve_wiech@msn.com)

### **Trustees**

Matt Heitker: [heitkergm@acm.org](mailto:heitkergm@acm.org)

Kevin Haggerty: 518-378-5428 [khaggerty51@gmail.com](mailto:khaggerty51@gmail.com)



**Seasons of Faith** is our parish model for lifelong, intergenerational faith formation, centered around opportunities to learn about, share and experience our faith in the company of all parishioners, from the newly baptized to the most mature members, leading us to an even deeper relationship with God and each other. Each season is four months long, with three seasons per year:

*Winter/Spring* (Jan-April)

*Summer* (May-Aug)

*Fall* (Sept-Dec)

### **Seasons of Faith is for families and adults.**

**Parents** are their children's first faith witnesses. Now more than ever, we want to support families and give them a variety of opportunities to *be* family. Seasons of Faith are specifically designed for the entire family.

**Adults** are never too old to learn. Seasons of Faith encourages faith growth for adults too!

**Seasons of Faith is for all who consider Holy Spirit their home. All are welcome!**



Join us in the Eucharist Adoration every Tuesday evening beginning at 7 p.m. We will be praying the Rosary & Divine Mercy Chaplet. Confession is available for all.

### THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT



**Saturday 3/6—Lenten Weekday**

✠ **4:00 pm. Vigil:** Gloria Choresca  
Wedge—Req. by Jay & Theresa Girvin

**Sunday 3/7—Third Sunday of Lent**

✠ **8:30 am:** Mary Wirsing—Req. by Peggy Gulliver  
✠ **11:00 am:** Gloria Choresca Wedge  
Req. by Felix and Vittoria Dombrowski

**Tuesday 3/9—St. Frances of Rome, Religious**

**9:00 am Mass**—Intention Available

**Wednesday 3/10—Lenten Weekday**

**9:00 am Mass**—Intention Available

**Thursday 3/11—Lenten Weekday**

**9:00 am Mass**—Intention Available

### FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

**Saturday 3/13—Lenten Weekday**

**4:00 pm. Vigil Mass:**  
✠ Intention Available

**Sunday 3/14—Fourth Sunday of Lent**

**8:30 am Mass:**  
✠ Mary Wirsing—Req. by Carolyn Hyatt  
**11:00 am Mass:**  
✠ For the people of the parish

### **CELEBRATING THE SACRAMENTS**

Through the Sacraments, God shares his holiness with us so that we, in turn, can make the world holier. (USCCB)

#### **Sacraments of Healing**

##### **Reconciliation**

✠ Saturday from 3:00-3:30pm or by appointment

##### **Anointing of the Sick (and homebound visits)**

✠ Available by appointment, for any stage of illness

#### **Sacraments of Initiation**

Congratulations as you begin and continue your initiation. These three sacraments provide the foundation for a life of Christian faith. Formation and preparation begin with forming faith. Join us for Seasons of Faith as we journey together as a parish family.

**Baptism**—is available at any age. Please contact the parish office.

**Eucharist**—Student candidates must be at least age 7 by December 1st and be participating in ongoing Seasons of Faith Gatherings for at least one year prior.

**Confirmation**—Student candidates must be participating in Seasons of Faith for at least one year prior to beginning formation for Confirmation in the spring.

#### **Sacraments of Commitment**

**Sacrament of Marriage**—Congratulations on your engagement! Please contact the parish as soon as you are engaged, at least six (6) months in advance. Pre-Cana is expected. Wedding dates will be scheduled after meeting with the Pastor.

**Holy Orders and Religious Life**—Congratulations as you begin your discernment. Please contact Fr. Vo at the parish office, or the diocesan Vocations Office at [albanyvocations.org](http://albanyvocations.org) (518) 453-6690.

Please contact the office for more information or to set up an appointment. We look forward to accompanying you on your sacramental journey.



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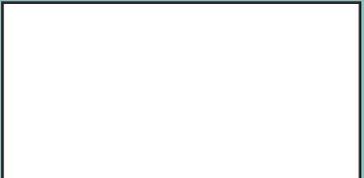
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